87R11412 BDP-D

By:  Bucy H.B. No. 3667

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of the School Psychologists Shortage Task Force.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1.  DEFINITIONS. In this Act:

(1)  "Commissioner" means the commissioner of education.

(2)  "Task force" means the School Psychologists Shortage Task Force established under Section 2 of this Act.

SECTION 2.  SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS SHORTAGE TASK FORCE. (a) The commissioner shall establish the School Psychologists Shortage Task Force to study issues related to the shortage of school psychologists.

(b)  The members of the task force must include:

(1)  three members appointed by the lieutenant governor as follows:

(A)  two members of the senate; and

(B)  one licensed specialist in school psychology;

(2)  three members appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives as follows:

(A)  two members of the house of representatives; and

(B)  one licensed specialist in school psychology; and

(3)  one member of the State Board of Education appointed by the commissioner.

(c)  The Texas Education Agency shall provide administrative support to the task force.

(d)  The commissioner shall appoint a member of the task force to serve as the presiding officer.

(e)  The task force shall meet at the call of the presiding officer.

(f)  The task force shall:

(1)  conduct a study on the issues related to the shortage of school psychologists among school districts, including supply and demand issues for school-based psychological services among districts; and

(2)  provide recommendations for increasing the presence of school psychologists in school districts and increasing the use of school-based psychological services, as needed.

SECTION 3.  REPORT. Not later than December 31, 2022, the task force shall submit a report to the governor and the legislature that includes the task force's findings and recommendations under this Act.

SECTION 4.  ABOLITION OF TASK FORCE; EXPIRATION. The task force is abolished and this Act expires January 1, 2023.

SECTION 5.  EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2021.